

FLIGHT JACKET

Vol. 6, No. 9

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

March 5, 2004

New Medals approved

Compiled by CPAO

MCAS Miramar

WASHINGTON – I Marine Expeditionary Force servicemembers, at home and abroad serving in the war on terrorism, will now be recognized for their service. Defense officials announced Feb. 26 the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will initially be awarded to individuals who have deployed to Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom as soon as a Marine Administrative message is published.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be initially awarded to those who supported Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

“These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world – for both current and future operations,” stated a DoD news release.

According to Sgt. John Ulmer, administrative chief, Headquarters Marine Corps Awards Branch, it is possible that Marines or Sailors will be awarded both.

“However, no specific criteria for those individuals has been set,” he said.

To be awarded the expeditionary medal, servicemembers must have deployed overseas for service in the Global War of Terrorism operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Individuals must have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

Each day aircrew members fly sorties into desig-

See GWOT, page 2



Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (left) and GWOT Service Medal (right). USMC illustration



Master Sgt. Mark S. Miller, drum major and company first sergeant, “Commandant’s Own,” U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, prepares to lead the band formation onto the flightline during the Battle Color Ceremony here Mar. 1. The ceremony included a performance by the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

Miramar Battle Color Ceremony leaves flightline ...

All But Silent

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Hundreds of Marines, family members, retirees and special guests gathered at the flightline to get a rare glimpse of the United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon during a Battle Color Ceremony here Mar. 1.

The band, also known as “The Commandant’s Own,” along with the Silent Drill Platoon performed in the ceremony as part of its annual West Coast Performance Tour that included Marine Corps installations and local schools, according to Staff Sgt. Justin C. Bakewell, public affairs chief, Battle Color Detachment, Marine Barracks 8th & I.

“This is our eighth show so far,” said Bakewell, an Arlington, Va., native. “We have eleven more shows before we go back to D.C.”

Bakewell said the detachment’s tour began in early February with performances in Yuma, Ariz., followed by tours in San Diego and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

“The only thing in addition to Marine Corps installations is local high schools in California,” Bakewell said. “We just want to get the Marine Corps name out there and have the students see the Marine Corps and what we are all about.”

The West Coast tour is expected to end in mid-March,

but the detachment will continue touring in other cities across the nation shortly after they return back at their home station in Washington, D.C.

“We definitely keep busy,” Bakewell explained. “We’re traveling anywhere from 100 to 150 days out of the year.”

What attracts many spectators to see the detachment is the precision and discipline involved in their performances, according to Bakewell. The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps gets the performance started with a combination of contemporary songs and traditional marching music played along with uniquely choreographed drill movements. Then the Silent Drill Platoon, with fixed bayonets atop their highly polished M-1 rifles, marches in to entertain the audience with intricate drill routines conducted without verbal commands. The platoon’s rifle inspector highlights the performance with an unrivaled inspection of his Marines.

“When people come out and see the Battle Color Ceremony they recognize precision of all three units, how we look, how we move and just how the Marines carry themselves,” he commented.

High school students were also among the crowd to see the detachment perform. Many of the students wore uniforms as part of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps

See COLOR, page 11

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar’s weather station



67°/48°
Today



70°/50°
Saturday



72°/49°
Sunday

Bring on
the
Colors



Page 4

‘Bats’
complete
Scorpion Fire



Page 6

Expectation of ethical conduct

The Honorable Gordon R. England

Secretary of the Navy

This is a short message about an important topic - ethics. So let me get right to the point. It is essential that all Department of the Navy personnel adhere to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. The American people put their trust in us and none of us can betray that trust. Standards of conduct are designed to ensure that we retain the trust of the American people.

It is critically important that we all put ethics above personal gain. Most ethical problems can be avoided by being forthright, honest and direct with everybody in every situation, every time. Everyone should understand that actions that may be permissible for some non-government employees are prohibited for us in order to preserve our trust with the American people. Here are some examples:

Government resources. Use of "company" (i.e. government) resources such as personnel, equipment, and property is restricted to official use only (with limited exceptions). We pay for our people, vehicles, and equipment with taxpayers' money, and so we must use them to only accomplish our mission, never for personal convenience or other unauthorized purposes.

Acceptance of gifts. Although there are some exceptions, we cannot accept gifts that are offered by individuals seeking to do business with Department of Defense or because of the official positions we hold. Similarly, superiors must neither expect nor allow subordinates to give them gifts under circumstances not allowed by DoD.

Financial interests. We need to ensure that our financial interests do not conflict with conscientious performance of duties. This is important for everyone, but especially important for flag and general officers, personnel in the senior executive service, procurement officials, and other personnel who exercise fiduciary responsibilities. Waivers may be available in limited circumstances if it is determined that the financial interest will not affect the integrity with which

government duties will be performed. The important point is that taxpayers must be confident that we make decisions for the benefit of the entire nation rather than just for ourselves, or a few companies or individuals.

Future employment. Anyone negotiating or seeking employment with a prospective employer must disqualify himself or herself from participating in official decisions, recommendations, and other actions that would affect the financial interests of the prospective employer. This restriction is especially important for procurement officials and other senior decision-makers. Waivers may be available in limited circumstances if it is determined that the financial interest is too remote to affect the integrity with which government duties will be performed.

Adherence to high ethical standards means not only that we treat taxpayers and the Department of the Navy with respect, but also that we treat all people with dignity and respect. When treating people with dignity and respect, there is obviously no room for behavior such as sexual harassment or sexual assault. Adherence to high standards of ethical conduct and personal behavior will ensure that we treat others with the dignity and respect that every person desires and deserves.

I expect all commanders and supervisors to set a personal example of integrity and ethical conduct. Doing so will create an environment that encourages subordinates to develop these same traits. In addition, reminding our people of their responsibilities in this regard is a useful exercise. One commander, for example, recently ordered a stand down to focus on personal behavior and ethics issues. Finally, commanders and other senior leaders must be particularly aware of ethical standards and should contact general counsel and judge advocate ethics counselors to seek advice or clarity on an ethics-related issue.

I appreciate the superb service each of you performs on a daily basis. You carry on a long tradition of service that preserves and protects freedom and liberty for all of our citizens.

eas, according to the release.

The expeditionary medal ribbon is scarlet, white and blue representing the United States. Light blue refers to worldwide cooperation against terrorism and gold denotes excellence.

The front of the medal is a bronze color medal disc charged with a shield adapted from the Great seal of the United States surmounting two swords hilts to base saltierwise enclosed within a wreath of laurel; overall and eagle, wings displayed, grasping in it's claws a serpent. The shield and eagle represent the United States readi-

See GWOT, page 11

GWOT, continued from page 1

nated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release states.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area (excluding the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water ar-



Miramar Mail



"Why don't the new ID cards have more information on them such as height and weight?"

**Pfc. Larry Jackson
Identification Card Clerk
Joint Reception Center**

There is no requirement for the Department of Defense to have visible physical appearance descriptions or a signature on its identification card.

Smart cards only contain selected, abbreviated data relating to a person's work functions or benefits and privileges provided as a uniformed member of the armed forces, DoD civilian or DoD contractor. Sensitive data such as passwords or highly personal medical information are not contained on an individual's smart card.

The new ID card, referred to as the Common Access Card, performs more functions than the old ID card. At a minimum, the CAC will be the standard ID card for eligible members of the Uniformed Services, DoD civilian and eligible foreign national employees and eligible contractor personnel. It will be the principal card used to enable physical access to DoD buildings and controlled spaces, will facilitate a standardized, uniform approach to access DoD facilities and DoD computer systems; and will carry public key infrastructure identity, email and encryption certificates.

The new ID card is issued to active duty uniformed services personnel, selected reserve, DoD civilian employees and eligible contractor personnel. The new ID card won't be issued to family members, retirees, disabled American veterans, inactive ready reserve and inactive guard.



Maj. Gen. Jon A. Gallinetti

FLIGHT JACKET

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Cpl. Brian J. Martin, banjo player, 3rd MAW Dixieland Band, entertained the crowd at the Palm Springs International Tattoo at the Palm Springs Convention Center Feb. 27 and 28. Martin has been in the band for six months and also plays guitar. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones.*



Members of the American Civil War Society, Inc., performed an American Civil War re-enactment at the Tattoo. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones.*

3rd MAW Band performs in International Tattoo

Story by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. – The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band performed at the Palm Springs International Tattoo at the Palm Springs Convention Center Feb. 27 and 28.

“The 3rd MAW band was the icing on the cake,” said Timothy J. Smith, retired Chief Warrant Officer 2, Tattoo director and producer.

The term “tattoo” originates from the phrase, “doe den tap toe,” which translates into “turn off the taps.” Before “lights-out,” 17th and 18th century innkeepers would give a “last call” to troops living in the barracks. A short marching ceremony took place in the streets to signify that the pubs and local inns were closing. In time, a Tattoo developed into a ceremonial presentation of military music.

The 3rd MAW band performed a hymn for each branch of service, while former and current servicemembers stood up to be recognized. In addition, upbeat songs such as “Sing, Sing, Sing” were performed.

To conclude their performance, the band played the Marines Hymn while five Marines charged out and re-enacted the raising of the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan.

“It is important for people to come out and see us, especially now,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas P. Managan, director and officer-in-charge of the 3rd MAW band. “It bolsters support for the Marines overseas and it reassures the public.

“A sloppy show would result in a negative impression of the Marine Corps. Our performance builds the public’s confidence

and trust in the Corps,” said Managan.

The 3rd MAW Dixieland Band, a smaller section of the band, played traditional New Orleans style music at the event as well. The Dixieland Band consists of everything from a washboard player to a banjo player.

The Tattoo also featured the 42nd Highland Regimental Pipes and Drums, whose music is devoted to the sacred honor of veterans from all countries. They performed music of the Great Highland Bagpipe.

Also performing, the 36th Army Military Intelligence Corps Regimental Band. They performed traditional military marches, orchestral transcriptions, jazz and popular songs.

The Everything Celtic Dance and Music Troop, whose ages ranged from 10 to 50 years old, performed Scottish and Irish dances.

Referred to as the “Highland Mascots,” two 8-year-old girls performed Celtic dances as well. The highlight of their performance was “the sword dance,” where the girls vigilantly danced around swords on the ground.

Re-enactors from the American Civil War Society, Inc. participated in the Tattoo as well, performing a battle scene from the civil war. Additional actors portrayed Gen. Robert E. Lee, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and President Abraham Lincoln.

To wrap up the Tattoo, all of the musical groups performed a finale together.

“Being able to work with the Canadians, Irish and Scottish symbolizes a harmony between the nations,” said Master Sgt. Luis Arce, bandmaster for the 3rd MAW band. “It is good for the whole morale of the country. We’re acting as ambassadors for the United States.”



The 42nd Regimental Pipes and Drums plays for the crowd. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Skye Jones*



The Marine Corps flag is dipped during the national anthem by the Color Guard during the Battle Color Ceremony here March 1. *Photo by Sgt. C. Nuntavong*



Silent Drill Platoon rifle inspector exchanges rifles with a Marine in the mirror drill during a Battle Color Ceremony on the flightline here March 1. The United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon participated in a West Coast Performance Tour that included Marine Corps installations and local schools before heading back to their home station in Washington, D.C. *Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas*

Battle Color Detachment performs to perfection



Wearing a ceremonial baldric with the names of battles fought in Marine Corps history, Master Sgt. Mark S. Miller, drum major and company first sergeant, "Commandant's Own," U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, leads the band. *Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas*



The creative marching skills and musical talent of the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon kept the attention of hundreds of Marines, family members, retirees and special guests who attended the Battle Color Ceremony March 1. The Battle Color Detachment travels thousands of miles to participate in more than 200 shows across the country every year. *Photos by Lance Cpl. John Sayas*

PMO cracks down on speeding traffic

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

It's 4:30 p.m. and you're tired. You want to go home, see your family, pet the dog, drink a beer, sit on the coach, grill some ribs and just relax.

So, you jump in the car and start your journey home. What you're not thinking about is how the speed limit just dipped from 35 mph to 25 mph as you leave the station. So, you roll through the gate going 40 mph and you get pulled over by the Provost Marshal's Office.

No ribs for you for a while.

"The problem we're having with people speeding through the gates is getting really bad," said Sgt. Anthony G. Westrich, PMO, 1st platoon. "We run radar virtually all day long and we still issue about 30 tickets a day. You'd think people would catch on."

Westrich said that the peak times of 6 a.m. to 8 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., is when the speeders run rampant.

"I think what people don't realize is how narrow the gates

are and how much foot traffic actually crosses those roads," said Westrich.

Provost Marshal's Office Watch Commander, Gunnery Sgt. Gail E. Saylor, said that many times drivers get confused at the east gate and will pull into the old vehicle registration parking lot. From there they will attempt to cross the street and ask the Marines manning the gate how to get onto the station, not realizing there are cars coming through the gate and that there is no crosswalk for pedestrians.

"You'd be very surprised at how often that happens," said Saylor.

Although most of the speeders are somewhere in the 40 mph to 50 mph range, some Marine are in a huge hurry to get home.

"Last year we gave a ticket to a guy who was going 72 mph through the east gate," said Westrich. "The bottom line is that people need to pay more attention to the posted speed limits and just be generally aware of what's going on around them."



Cpl. Derek Nevel, dispatcher, Provost Marshal's Office, runs radar at the east gate here March 2. Speeding out of the gates has become a problem over the last few months despite PMO writing an average of 30 tickets daily. Photo by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

San Diego ranked 3rd highest for identity theft

Commentary by Cpl. Kristen L. Tull

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

In one day it's common for someone to charge tickets to a sporting event, write a check at the commissary, make a phone call from their cell phone and apply for a credit card. Chances are most people wouldn't think twice about any of these activities. But the criminals that are part of the fastest growing crime in America today prey on every one of those actions.

It's called identity theft and it occurs when someone uses personal information such as your name, social security number,

credit card number or other information that can identify the person without his or her permission, to commit fraud or other crimes.

Between January and December 2003, the Federal Trade Commission received over half a million consumer fraud and identity theft complaints. The median loss was \$228.

Twenty-eight percent of identity theft victims are between the ages of 18-29, and San Diego is reported to be ranked number three in the major Metropolitan areas for fraud, according to the Consumer Sentinel report. Washington, D.C., is first with Seattle in second.

Although identity theft may be impos-

sible to completely avoid, there are steps to take in preventing one from becoming a victim.

According to the Identity Theft Resource Center you should order a copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus once a year. Those are Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. By checking your report on a regular basis, you can catch fraud and mistakes before they cause havoc on personal finances.

Don't give out personal information over the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you initiated the contact yourself and you know exactly with whom you're

dealing. If a bank calls you and they ask you for your social security number for verification, do not give it to them. If they are who they say they are, then they already know that information. Set up a security word with your bank that is to be used for any type of verification.

Guard your mail and trash from theft. Only put it outside when the trash is to be picked up. Shred or tear up all documents with any personal information on them.

Don't carry your social security card. Leave it in a secured place. Also, only carry

See THEFT, page 11



Cutting hair for a good cause

Before deploying to Iraq, a staff sergeant has her hair cut March 2 for 'Locks of Love,' a non-profit organization (www.locksoflove.org) providing hairpieces for children suffering from medical hair loss. Photo by Sgt. C. Nuntavong

Putting the sting in Scorpion Fire



A F/A-18D from Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 242 flies over the Chocolate Mountain Impact Area during the Scorpion Fire exercise. *Photo courtesy of Maj. Marvin Reed*

Joint exercise delivers excellence in training unit esprit de corps

Story by Cpl. Paul Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Taking off from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar during the early twilight hours Feb. 19, a night flight of six F/A-18D Hornets from Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 242 marked the end of the Scorpion Fire exercise.

"The flight we're going on tonight is a Forward Air Controller (Airborne) and Tactical Air Coordinator (Airborne) mission using practice ordnance and flares," said Maj. Marvin Reed, weapon systems officer, VMFA (AW)-242.

Scorpion Fire, a Marine Aircraft Group 11 FAC(A) and TAC(A) joint training exercise designed to integrate all aspects of Marine aviation and supporting arms, began two weeks ago and provided the "Bats" of VMFA(AW)-242 a unique opportunity to practice their trademark skills - flying close air support missions in all weather and night conditions.

"This year, Scorpion Fire gave us the chance to train current and prospective FAC(A)s and TAC(A)s," said Reed, who is also a class of 1992 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. "In addition, the exercise allowed F/A-18C/D Hornet, AV-8B Harrier, AH-1W Super Cobra and UH-1N Huey helicopter squadrons to enhance their close air support and strike coordination and reconnaissance tactics, techniques and procedures."

Due to the deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, VMFA(AW)-242 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 169 took the lead on planning and organizing the Scorpion Fire exercise.

"In six weeks, our squadron and the 'Vipers' were able to organize the evolution, working 12-hour days, including weekends, to make Scorpion Fire a reality," said Reed.

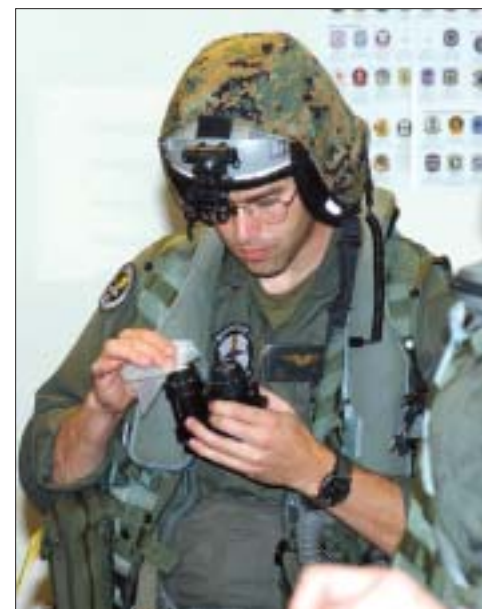
Training as hard as they fight, the "Bats" and the "Vipers" of HMLA-169 used current joint CAS procedures and techniques.

"(We) handled the bulk of fixed-wing planning and execution and HMLA-169 coordinated the bulk of rotary-wing planning, including a forward arming and refueling point," explained Reed.

Scorpion Fire was broken into three phases.



A helmet bag belonging to Maj. Marvin Reed, VMFA(AW)-242, displays patches of country flags and exercises that characterize his military career. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*



Before the Scorpion Fire flight Feb. 19, Capt. Michael K. Bridges, VMFA(AW)-242, cleans his night-vision goggles after putting on his g-suit and helmet. *Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht*



Lt.Col. Kevin M. Iiams (right), commanding officer, VMFA(AW)-242, and Capt. Art R. Behnke, VMFA(AW)-242, carefully look over their F/A-18D during the pre-flight check before their Scorpion Fire flight Feb. 19. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

“Phase one consisted of lectures covering artillery call for fire, low, medium, high threat FAC(A), TAC(A) employment and night employment to name a few,” explained Reed.

Reed also added that MCAS Yuma conducted range scheduling and sortie planning in the initial phase.

“Phase two consisted of basic low and elevated threat rotary-wing and fixed-wing FAC(A) tactics, including supporting arms coordination,” Reed said. “The final phase, phase three, consisted of a five-day limited war during which aircrew integrated all of the skills they learned in a fluid threat environment.”

All of the Scorpion Fire training was done in the Chocolate Mountain Impact Area and Cactus West ranges at Yuma, according to Capt. Richard B. Patteson, embark officer, VMFA(AW)-242.

Before their twilight take-off Feb. 19, the “Bats” were careful during their pre-flight aircraft inspection, confirming the safety of their aircraft.

Their Hornet’s were not armed to the teeth with some of the typical bomb loads used in real combat missions, but were loaded with practice ordnance and LUU-2 flares for marking targets.

Overall during Scorpion Fire, the participants expended a variety of ordnance, including Mk-80 series bombs, 5-inch rockets, 2.75-inch rockets, missiles, inert bombs, 20mm gun rounds and Joint Direct Attack Munitions, according to

Reed.

Highlighting the exercise, Reed noted that four aircrew from VMFA(AW)-242 successfully completed FAC(A) Instructor and TAC(A) Instructor qualifications with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 instructor support.

“This type of exercise is great training for our aircrew because the missions we fly are the same as in a real combat environment,” said Patteson.

Scorpion Fire was truly a joint exercise with approximately 19 participants, including six Hornet squadrons, four Harrier squadrons, one aerial refueling squadron, one wing support squadron, three helicopter squadrons, two Air Force F-16 fighter squadrons, 1st Force Recon from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Navy Seals from Naval Special Warfare Group 1, according to Reed.

With such a large number of participants, the importance of planning showed through.

“The main lesson we learned was to start planning early,” said Reed.

Since the “Bats” re-designation as an all-weather squadron almost 40 years ago in 1964, VMFA(AW)-242 has provided close air support at night as well as deep interdiction strikes and reconnaissance mission in all weather conditions.

Scorpion Fire proved once again that excellence in training ensures further victory in battle, delivering the venomous sting of Marine Corps aviation.



Capt. Brian A. Skouse, VMFA(AW)-242, conducts his pre-flight cockpit check before stepping into the pilot’s seat of an armed F/A-18D Hornet. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht



After groundcrew members help complete the aircraft’s pre-flight systems check, a F/A-18D from VMFA(AW)-242 taxis from the Combat Arms Loading Area to the runway to take part in the final night-time Scorpion Fire flight Feb. 19. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

Miramar squadron shows support for 1st MarDiv

Story by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The 1st Marine Division, based out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., is the oldest and most decorated division-sized unit in the Marine Corps. One of the most recognized battles in the division’s history is the Guadalcanal campaign – the first major American offensive of World War II. This campaign is represented by the division’s logo, a numeral one with the word “Guadalcanal” running down the middle of it and five stars representing the southern hemisphere.

More than 60 years later, the division was once again making history as they participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom last spring, but not without the support of their wing counterparts flying high in the skies above providing combat air support as they moved towards Baghdad.

One squadron who was flying in support of 1st MarDiv during OIF was Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The commanding officer at the time, Lt. Col. Michael R. Kennedy, along with other squadron Marines came up with an idea to paint a unit logo representing infantry Marines serving in Iraq as a sign

of support on one of their F/A-18 Hornet aircraft, according to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Martin F. Ziola, maintenance control officer, VMFA(AW)-225.

“We were in the desert, looking at our aircraft and the idea comes up. ‘Why don’t we paint a ground unit logo on the side of our jet?’” Ziola explained.

During the war, the “Vikings” were called upon to give close-air support to 1st MarDiv units on numerous occasions.

Ziola said he arranged the logo to be painted on Aircraft “08,” the same aircraft that visited Guadalcanal as part of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal during a Theater Cooperative Support Program deployment called Fish Hook 2 in September 2002. The squadron was the first fighter jet squadron to land on the island since World War II. During TCSP, the Vikings visited 39 different Pacific countries, states and provinces.

The “Vikings” were in close contact with ground troops moving north, as forward observers provided strike missions on Iraqi targets for Marine pilots in the area, according to Ziola. He said one forward observer, a former “Viking” now serving with 1st Marine Division, was on the ground transmitting coordinates for enemy targets to pilots in the area.

“We were actually rolling in on targets



The ‘Bats’ aircraft ‘08’ carries the symbol of the 1st Marine Division in honor of Marines fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Photo by Lance Cpl. John Sayas

that he was bringing us in to destroy,” Ziola said.

“Our way of saying to those guys on the ground that we are with you was to take some time to paint (the logo) on the side of a jet,” Ziola said. “It kind of motivated us.”

Ziola assigned Sgt. Jeremiah S. Farley, electronics section, VMFA(AW)-225, with the project that took three days to complete.

“It was hard because we had sand storms blowing over us and alarms going off,” said Farley, a Grand Junction, Colo. native. “We finally were given a hangar to work in so we could finish up what we had to do.”

The logo remained on the aircraft throughout the squadron’s deployment to OIF. Upon arriving back in the states, the aircraft was transferred to VMFA(AW)-242 and later flown to Camp Pendleton to take part in a reunion for 1st MarDiv.

As Marines begin deploying back to Iraq, the logo still remains on the aircraft, but not for long. It will be replaced by another unit’s name or some other significant person or place to be honored in their own unique way.

“It was a way for us to show the Marines on the ground side that we do support (them),” said Farley. “We are a team.”

Earning the Blood Stripe: Marines remember a history of sacrifice

Commentary by Cpl. Paul W. Leicht

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Red is a color often characterized by violence and bloodshed in real life as well as in art and literature. It often suggests the meaning of courage and sacrifice.

Traditionally, officers and noncommissioned officers of the Marine Corps wear a scarlet red stripe on their dress blue trousers to commemorate the courage and tenacious fighting of the men who battled before Chapultepec in the Mexican War.

In the Corps, this stripe is more commonly known as the “Blood Stripe.”

Ask any good Marine and he or she will tell you this is true.

But how many realize that the battle at Chapultepec took place during one of the least bloody conflicts in the annals of U.S. Marine Corps history?

Interestingly, more Marines were killed or wounded during the “Mayaguez Incident” battle with Khmer Rouge forces at Koh Tang Island, Cambodia, on May 14, 1975, than during the entire Mexican War. How many active duty Marines today remember the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, and the human cost of the Koh Tang helicopter assault that closed America’s longest war in Southeast Asia?

Until the Mexican War when the Marines stormed the steps of Chapultepec more Marines were killed or wounded during another conflict in American history often forgotten, the War of 1812.

The death of any Marine who willingly sacrificed his or her life for our nation deserves remembrance and the deepest respect. Yet the relative “bloodless” cost for Marines who stormed the stone course of glory atop Chapultepec in Mexico almost 160 years ago, now seems to pale in comparison next to the loss of Marines in action in more modern, industrial times.

Traditions bring meaning to our lives and, for the Marine Corps, a greater sense of purpose and pride among its servicemembers and leaders.

President Ronald Reagan recognized this pride after the Oct. 23, 1983, bombing of the Marine Barracks in

Beirut, Lebanon, when he is reputed to have said, “Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they’ve made a difference. The Marines don’t have that problem.”

Ever mindful of past sacrifices, the Marines are proud of their contributions to their country on the battlefield.

That legacy of duty defines what it means to serve and is recognized today as it was generations ago. So long as historians, writers, photographers, artists and anyone with a talent for a bar room story continues to extol the actions of Marines for the benefit of future generations, the tradition will remain timeless.

But cultural traditions and myths can sometimes evolve over time like any good human story. Historical personalities, events and observations are often viewed and interpreted through the looking glass of contemporary times, reflecting a different meaning from previous or to future generations.

In the realm of military history, more contemporary battles and conflicts often eclipse those previously and change the way people view war entirely, especially when the cost in blood is extraordinarily high.

For example, the carnage of World War I that virtually annihilated an entire generation of British masculine youth shocked a dying empire. In comparison, the vast number of American casualties during the battles of the Civil War, World War II and Vietnam was equally stunning to American society and the national psyche.

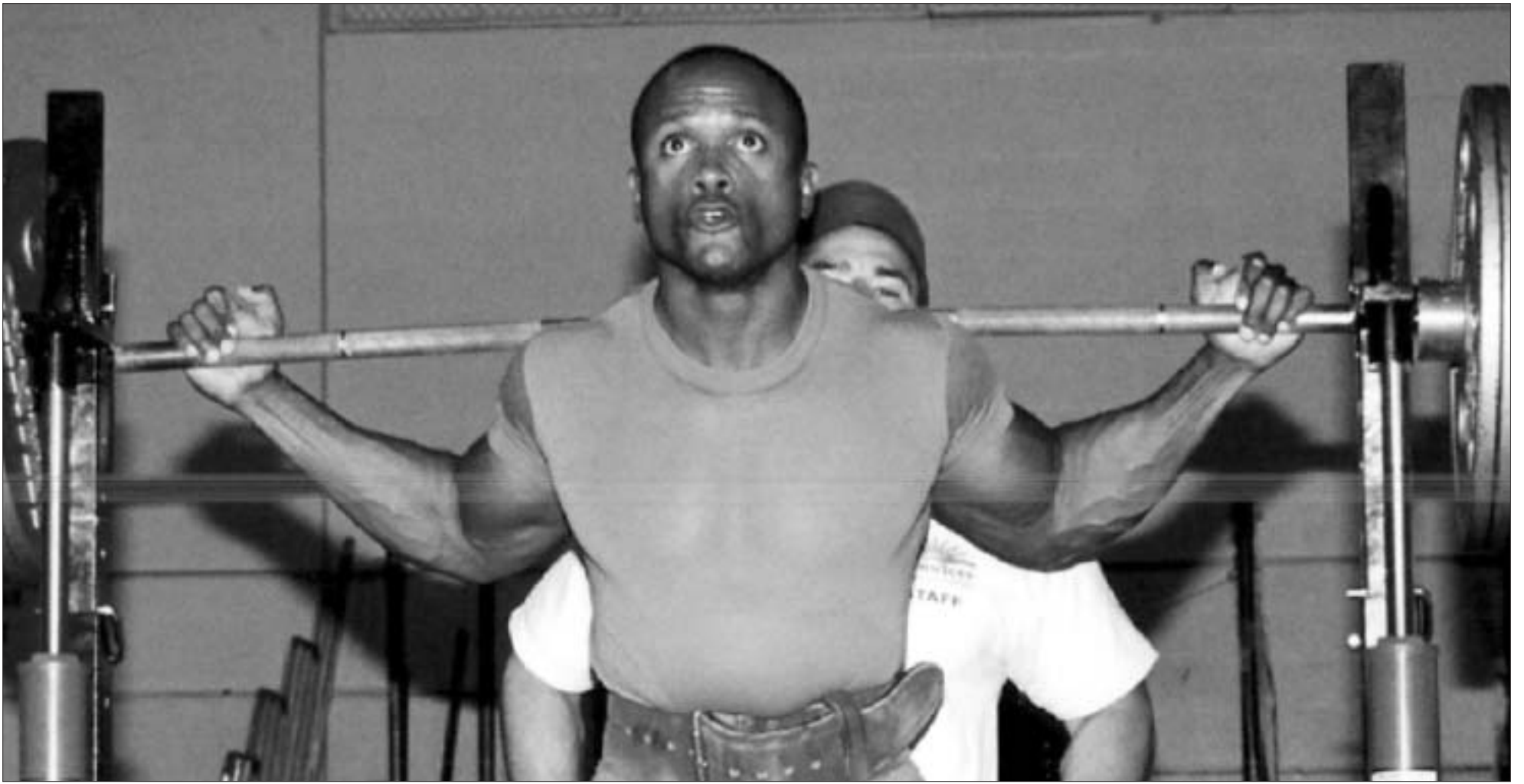
World War II in particular - the war of our grandparents - is now slowly fading into distant history.

The number of sacrifices by fellow Marines in that monumental and global conflict to this day leaves an indelible impression on Marines past and present.

Perhaps this mark is so strong that it will influence a turn toward redefining the traditional meaning behind our own myth and meaning behind the coveted “blood stripe.”

For Marines putting on the scarlet stripe for the first time, whatever the specific historical reference, remembering the Corps’ blood sacrifice while fulfilling a legacy of leadership spanning generations can feel like an overwhelming honor.

Comparing the Human Cost of Sacrifice: The Marine Corps’ Bloodiest Days in America’s Wars, Conflicts, Terrorist Acts, and Other Hostile Incidents		
Action	Killed	Wounded
World War II	19,733	68,207
Vietnam War	13,091	51,392
Korean War	4,268	23,744
World War I	2,461	9,520
Lebanon Peacekeeping	234	51
U.S. Civil War	148	131
Operation Iraqi Freedom	55	269
Revolutionary War	49	70
Nicaragua Pacification	47	66
War of 1812	45	66
Persian Gulf War	24	92
Pacification of the Dominican Republic	17	50
"Mayaguez Incident," Koh Tang Island, Cambodia	14	41
Mexican War	11	47
Source: Department of the Navy, Naval Historical Center online		



Master Sergeant Michael W. Kidd, warms up for one of the many power lifting competitions he entered last year. Kidd, 2003 Marine Corps' Male Athlete of the Year, has set many records in the sport of power lifting in military and civilian competitions. *Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Michael W. Kidd*

Miramar Marine recognized as 'strongest man,' 2003's Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year

Story by Sgt. Joshua Stueve

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Who would've ever thought that the 129 pound Michael Kidd, 18-years-old and fresh out of high school with a one way ticket to Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego, would become a world champion power lifter? Probably no one in Muskegon Heights, Mich., the hometown of the man with more records than the Beatles.

But that's what happened.

Master Sergeant Kidd, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Crash Fire Rescue here, was named the 2003 Marine Corps Male Athlete of the Year.

Along with being recognized as the top male athlete in the Marine Corps, Kidd also has a strangle hold on the athlete of the year for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. He's won it the last three years.

"I don't do this to gain recognition," said Kidd. "I do it for myself. I do it because I've made a lifetime commitment to having a healthy lifestyle. It's as simple as that."

Although Kidd may not seek the attention, he definitely receives it.

At the Amateur Athletic Union National Power Lifting Championships held in Richmond, Va., last year, Kidd took home first place in all six divisions in his weight class of 198 pounds. And he was just getting warmed up.

The AAU National Bench Press and Dead Lift Championships were held in Vista, Calif., three weeks later, and he set a new American record.

Still not done.

Those two National Championships qualified him to be a member of Team USA at the World Power Lifting Championships held in Richmond, Va., Oct. 3 – Nov. 2, 2003. With teams and competitors from fourteen different countries, Kidd won gold medals in four different divisions and set a new world record in the military division.

Through all his successes, he has managed to stay humble.

"I give most of my trophies away," explained Kidd. "To nieces, nephews, stuff like that."

Kidd has been involved in power lifting for 27 years. As a young Marine back in 1978, Kidd gravitated towards the older Marines when he went to the gym and started learning from them.

"There were a few guys who really took the time to an-

swer my questions and sort of mentor me when I was younger," said Kidd. "But I'll tell you, even today I'm still learning."

"You just have to pace yourself," explained Kidd, when talking about how to become successful in building the body you want. "You need to have an equal balance in your life of fitness and recreation, or family, or whatever. Incorporate fitness into your life, not your life into fitness."

Unlike many of us, Kidd follows his own advice.

His selection as Fire Officer of the Year in 2001, and nomination again in 2003 proves that.

"I was determined not to let power lifting interfere with my job," said Kidd. "My command has been very supportive of me and my sport, and I'm very appreciative and lucky to have that."

Physical fitness has been a part of Kidd's life since he was a "kid."

"I've been doing this a long time," said Kidd. "And if I could give any advice on why people should make physical fitness an important part of their life it would be this: Fitness may not add years to your life, but it will add life to your years."



Chapel weekly schedule of events

Holy Family Catholic Community

- ♦ Mass: 11 a.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. weekdays.
- ♦ Rosary: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Confession: 10:15 a.m. Sunday or for appointments call Father Berchmanz at 577-1333.
- ♦ Religious classes for children for first communion, confirmation: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday.
- ♦ Youth gathering and planning following mass Sunday.
- ♦ Baptism: Normally the first Sunday of the month. Call the chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Marriage: Call chaplain for details at least six months before wedding.
- ♦ Instruction in the Catholic faith (RCIA). Call chaplain's office for details.
- ♦ Scripture Class: 7 p.m. Wednesday in Chapel classroom.
- ♦ Choir Practice: 6 p.m. Wednesday in Main Chapel.

Liturgical Christian

- ♦ Sunday: Choir rehearsal at 9 a.m.
Liturgical worship at 9:30 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Bible study at 10:45 a.m. Young Adults Fellowship at 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ Tuesday: Morning prayer group (Room 4) at 6 a.m.
Contemporary Gospel Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Wednesday: Crafts and conversation at 9 a.m. Free childcare provided.
Women's bible study at 10:45 a.m.
Baptist service at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday: Liturgical choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.
- ♦ Friday: Baptist bible study at 7 p.m.

Jewish

- ♦ First Friday of the month at MCRD San Diego at 7 p.m.
- ♦ Last Friday of the month in Edson Range Chapel Camp Pendleton at 7:30 p.m.

MOSC scholarships

The Marine Officers' Spouse's Club at Miramar has announced 2004 scholarships.

Applications must be received no later than April 1, 2004. The scholarships are not need-based. The MOSC will also award scholarships sponsored by the First Command Educational Foundation.

Recipients of the MOSC and FCEF scholarships must be spouses or children of Miramar active duty, retired or deceased military members.

Scholarship applications are available at the MCAS Miramar Library or online at www.miramar.usmc.mil/mosc.htm.

All Marine Sports

Women's basketball, and men's and women's volleyball applications are needed for the All Marine Sports program.

Applications are also needed for triathlon, softball (men's and women's), golf, rugby, soccer (men's and women's) and the marathon teams. All applications must be submitted to the Athletic Office.

For more information, see the 2004 All Marine Sports Calendar that can be found at www.usmc-mccs.org, or call the Athletic Office at 577-4127.

Education Fair

The Youth Sports Complex will host an Education Fair, offering the chance to meet with area schools March 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Featured schools include Chapman University, Webster University, San Diego City College and many more.

For more information, call 577-1801.

Alcohol education

Beginning March 23, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings will take place at the MCCS Counseling Center, Bldg. 2274, across from the Post Office.

Meetings will be weekdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to all active duty personnel, family members and Department of Defense employees.

For more information, call 577-7285.

Appreciation fares

Holland America Line has announced community appreciation fares for active duty military, firefighters, police officers and teachers for select sailings through Dec. 11, 2004.

For more information, contact the MCCS Travel Office, Bldg. 2524, across from the Bowling Center, or call 577-4131.

Miramar Station Theater closed for renovations

On Jan. 12 the Miramar Station Auditorium/Movie Theater was closed for renovations for a minimum of 90 days. During this time, the theater is closed for all training and movie program opportunities.

Renovations include new carpeting, tile and seating, as well as installation of an air conditioning and heating system, a fire safety system and a new roof.

CLEP testing

Fourteen of the Educational Testing Service's College Level Examination Program tests are available to all military personnel and Department of Defense employees who are currently enrolled in programs on testing military installations.

The cost to civilian personnel enrolled in programs on station is \$70 per test. Civilians must pay for each test with a cashier's check or money order.

The new paper and pencil tests will be available in May 2004 and will be administered at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. each Wednesday at the Education Center. The new tests include CLEP General Tests on College Mathematics, English Composition (without essay), Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Science and History.

The new CLEP Subject Tests include Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, College Algebra, Freshman College Composition, History of the U.S. I and II, Information Systems, Introductory Psychology, Introductory Sociology and Principles of Management.

Free study guides are available at the Education Center, Bldg. 5305.

For more information, or to see if a test is available, call 577-1801.

ASE examinations

Applications for the Automotive Services Excellence exam must be turned in to the Education Office, Bldg. 5305, no later than March 12.

Exam dates are May 4, 6 and 11.

For more information, call 577-7285.

Postal reminder

Personnel that received mail through the Military Postal Service Center are reminded to check their post office box daily to avoid accumulating excess and old mail.

Any mail that is not picked up within 30 days will be returned to sender as unclaimed.

Personnel no longer living in the barracks who receive mail off base must come to the Military Post Office to have their post office box closed.

For more information, call the Post Office at 577-4578.

MCX Savings Bonds

Five lucky students recently won U.S. Savings Bonds in the Marine Corps Exchange Super Star Student Program.

Each of the 16 Marine Corps Exchanges are rewarding patrons in grades 6th through 12th maintaining a B average or higher.

Eligible students must be authorized MCX patrons and visit their local store manager within 30 days of receiving their report card.

For more information, contact your local MCX.



For information on deployed 3rd MAW Marines, call the Dictaphone at 1-877-616-8762. For more information, call 577-7397 or 7294.



History stops traffic

A Lockheed TO-1 'Shooting Star' from the Flying Leatherneck Museum here is towed passed the barracks on the way to Hangar 4 for a tour and catered event Feb. 18. The TO-1 was used as a training jet for the F-80 by the Navy and the Marines from 1948 to 1962. Photo by Cpl. Paul Leicht

GWOT, continued from page 2

ness and the resolve to fight international terrorism, which is symbolized by the serpent crushed in the eagle's claws. The wreath denotes honor and achievement.

The back of the medal has the eagle, serpent and swords from the front of the medal within the encircling inscription "War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal."

Personnel eligible to receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated or supported operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates for individuals who served in airport security operations run from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002.

The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal.

The service medal ribbon is scarlet, white and blue representing the United States, with gold denoting excellence.

The front of the medal is a bronze colored medal disc charged with an eagle, wings displayed, with a stylized shield of 13 vertical bars on it's breast and holding in dexter claw and olive branch and in sinister claw three arrows, all in front of a terrestrial globe with the inscription above, "War on Terror-

ism Service Medal." The eagle and shield, adapted from Great Seal, represents the united states. The protect the globe above and behind, symbolizing American resolve to combat and overcome global elements of international terrorism. The laurel represents the drive for peace. The three arrows signify vigilance, resolve and peace.

The back of the medal has a laurel wreath on a plain field.

According to a DoD release, each service will set regulations for processing, awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their members, including information for veterans, retirees and next-of-kin.

"We're sending out two separate messages — one for expeditionary and one for the service medal," said Ulmer.

Headquarters Marine Corps is currently finalizing the message regarding the medals, which should be out within the next two weeks, said Ulmer.

Once released the message will be available on www.usmc.mil.

COLOR, continued from page 1

Program at their schools attending in hopes of learning something from those who serve

their country.

"We wanted to work on our drill and the Silent Drill Platoon is an example for us to watch," said John Kang, company commander, Westview High School. "They were

THEFT, continued from page 5

the identification information and the number of credit and debit cards that you actually need.

For computer protection, update your virus protection software regularly, and do not download files sent to you by strangers or click on hyperlinks from people you don't know. Use a firewall program and try not to store financial information on your laptop, which is more likely to get stolen. Before you dispose of a computer, make sure you delete all personal information from its memory.

A typical rule of thumb is to be stingy with your personal information. Adopt a "need to know" approach with it. Also, the more personal information you put on your checks, the more information you are routinely handing out to people who don't need to know that information.

Make sure you check on a company before you utilize them in any way. Contact-

ing the Better Business Bureau can do this. It gives information about businesses that have been the subject of complaints.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, if you think your identity has been stolen, you need to do three things.

First, contact the fraud departments of the credit bureaus. Once the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two bureaus will be notified. They will then send you your credit report free of charge.

Second, file a police report. Make sure to get a copy to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.

Last, file your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission. It maintains a database of identity theft cases to help prevent them from happening in the future.

The Military Sentinel, established in September of 2002, also provides a gateway to consumer education materials that covers a wide range of protection issues. Members of the United States Armed Forces are able to enter complaints directly to Consumer Sentinel. This informs law enforcement agencies and members of the Judge Advocate General staff to help protect members and their families from identity theft problems. Log on to www.consumer.gov/military for more information.

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2001 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR — Silver gray with leather int. \$27,000. 858-245-4935.

AUTOMOTIVE

1995 DODGE DAKOTA — Blue and silver, V-8, automatic, 3" lift kit, 31" tires, Kenwood MP3/CD player, Boston speakers. \$6000. 858-504-1404.

HEAVY DUTY TOW DOLLY — Swivel base, new tires and straps, spare tire. \$600. 858-578-7985.

COMPUTERS

HP DESK JET 882C with two spare cartridges, \$60. Lexmark X23 printer with 1 spare cartridge, \$40. Acer flatbed scanner, \$10. All with software and manuals. 858-578-7985.

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GRAVESITE FOR SALE — El Camino Park, #380 Veterans Terrace, \$2975 plus transfer. Call 619-582-3495.

MAGIC "THE GATHERING" CARDS — 20,000+, \$200. Call 858-610-1278.

MATCHING COUCH & LOVESEAT, \$200. Leather recliner, \$50. Matching coffee table & end table, \$75. Wood rocking chair, \$45. Stair stepper machine, \$25. Cross training machine, \$35. Cat playground, \$5. All items in great shape. Call Mike, 660-7828, between 5-9 p.m.

BABY JOGGER TWINNER II COMBO — Great cond., teal, retractable canopy, 20-inch alloy wheels. \$225/OBO. Call 858-672-6146.

GRACO INFANT CARRIER with base, \$30. Graco infant swing, \$50. Queen mattress set with frame, \$90. Room size carpets, \$30 each. Call Jennifer, 858-382-1083.

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2000 VS800 SUZUKI INTRUDER — Excellent condition, black, low miles. \$4,500/OBO. 858-335-9340.

2002 GSXR 1000 — Red, low miles, micron pipe, Blue Book + pipe. 2002 CBR 600FYI, red, low miles, micron pipe, extras, wife's bike, Blue Book + extras. Paul, 858-576-9338.

2003 KAWASAKI KX125 — Never raced, xint. cond. Low hours. \$3,500. Mike, 619-549-5428.

2003 BUELL XB9R FIREBOLT — Approx. 1,350 mi, Shoei Z-II helmet, bike cover, service manual all incl. \$7,500. Todd, 619-665-2234.

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2004 REGAL 1800 LSR 18-FT. SKI BOAT with 4.6L Volvo engine, factory trailer. Brand new, never used. Won on "Price Is Right." Must sell. \$19,950/OBO. Charles, 619-972-1186.

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MIRA MESA — MBR with own BA, near mall. Full house privileges, W/D. \$500/mo. + \$200 dep. 858-232-0499.

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